

Special Town Meeting Princeton, Ma 01541 October 11, 2011

Warrant duly posted: September 27, 2011
Inhabitants notified by website posting: September 27, 2011
Advisory Board Hearing: October 4, 2011
Quorum needed: 81
Voters Present: 105
Moderator: Harry Pape
Checkers/Counters: Linda Albrecht, Suzanne Dolphin
Constable: Charles Schmohl
Meeting called to order: 7:55PM
Meeting dissolved: 8:21PM

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the full warrant.

Unanimous

7:55PM

Moderator read the header and footer of the warrant, including the charge to the constable, return of warrant, and posting by constable.

The Moderator led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

All Articles are approved by the Advisory Board unless otherwise noted.

ARTICLE 1. Voted to amend Chapter II (Town Meetings), Section 5 of the General Bylaws as follows:

Delete the following language in the first sentence:

“At least fourteen (14) days before the day fixed in the warrant for any Special Town Meeting”

And replace it with:

“At least seven (7) days for the Annual Town Meeting and fourteen (14) days for any Special Town Meeting before the day fixed in the warrant”

Unanimous

8:02PM

ARTICLE 2. Voted to amend Chapter III, (Advisory Committee) of the General Bylaws as follows:

Delete Section 2 in its entirety,

And replace it with:

“The Selectmen shall appoint members at the beginning of each fiscal year as necessary to maintain a seven member committee each of whose term shall be for three fiscal years. The members shall be appointed for staggered terms so that the term of approximately one-third of the members shall expire each year.”

Delete the following language in Section 3:

“The term of office for any person so chosen to fill a vacancy shall expire at the final adjournment of the next succeeding Annual Town Meeting”

And replace it with:

“The term of office for any person so chosen to fill a vacancy shall expire at the end of the current fiscal year (June 30th)”

Unanimous

8:05PM

ARTICLE 3. Voted to rescind the vote taken under Article 8 at May 10, 2011 Annual Town Meeting.

Unanimous

8:06PM

ARTICLE 4. Voted to establish the FY12 ambulance operating budget by use of all funds available in the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation account #15-5-231-000 as of September 30, 2011. Receipts for ambulance services received in FY12 and all subsequent fiscal years to be deposited into said account. Any balance in said account to be carried forward to subsequent years. I further move to transfer the amount of \$288.03 from the Overlay Surplus Account #27-5-99-002 to the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation account #15-5-231-000. The FY12 ambulance-operating budget is \$48,960.00 for salary and \$43,150.00 for expenses for a total budget of \$92,110.00.

Unanimous

8:08PM

ARTICLE 5. Voted to transfer the sum of \$600.00 from the Overlay Surplus Account #27-5-99-002 to the following departmental accounts:

\$100.00 to the Town Accountant Salary Account #01-5-135-100

\$500.00 to the Principal Assessor Salary Account #01-5-141-101

Unanimous

8:10PM

ARTICLE 6. Voted to appropriate the sum of four hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$450,000) for the purpose of funding any expenses related to hazardous waste abatement at the Thomas Prince School, 170 Sterling Road, including but not limited to abatement, removal, mitigation, testing, consultation, and disposal, and to meet said appropriation the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized to borrow said sum pursuant to Mass. General Laws c. 44 Section 7, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore.

Discussion:

Kevin Toohey, Calamint Hill Rd. – is there an effort to use the money from the Green Fund to cover some of these costs?

John Lebeaux, Town Administrator- We are making efforts to incorporate as much of the project within the Green Repair process as we possibly can. Not sure of the status of that effort as discussions are ongoing. The goal is to get as much with the Green Repair as possible. Any work that does not have to do with windows, boiler, or roof is absolutely excluded. The question is what of the window product can be included.

Mr. Lebeaux offered that handouts on the status of the Green Repair project were available at the meeting and if needed, he would go through a presentation on the project status.

Bob Imber – Sterling Rd. Speaking as a resident and not as a school committee member related that the district school administration is supporting the effort as best they can. They want to see the school repaired and made safe.

Jerry Gannelli, Sharon Drive – what is the plan for borrowing, short versus long term?

John Lebeaux – The proposal is to borrow \$450K short term for a period of 1 year with an estimated interest rate of no more than 1.25%; the interest cost for 1 year would be \$5625.00. It is believed that by the end of the 12 month period the project will be completed and the exact costs will be identified. At that time the Selectboard and Advisory board will recommend a long term approach.

Raymond Dennehy, Selectboard Chair added that it was critical to have a successful vote on the borrowing this evening as the town has already incurred costs.

Robyn Liburdi, Redemption Rock Tr. N – are you looking into getting money back from the state?

Raymond Dennehy –Met with State Rep. Karen Ferguson this evening, and she will do all she can to see if there is any state funds available for the remediation of the situation.

Carl Lapoint, Brooks Station Rd – Why do we have to pay for the inspection? Is the work required by law? Would you consider an independent inspection?

Raymond Dennehy – PCB's were found when tests were done for the repair project and exceeded the EPA limit. The results were reported to the EPA and the agency made the decision as to how we had to proceed. The town has no latitude to ignore the situation. We are trying to minimize the cost of remediation while ensuring the safety of the students, employees, and the citizens. The inspectors were impartial, properly license, and had experience with other towns that have had the same problem.

Dennis Moore, Sterling Rd. put forth a motion to move the question

Motion carries – declared by Moderator

Motion was made and seconded for Article 6. 2/3's vote required for borrowing.

1 No vote out of the body present.

Moderator declared a successful 2/3 vote.

Motion to dissolve was made and seconded.

Unanimous

8:21PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Grettum
Town Clerk